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Testimony to the Department of Environmental Protection

Public Hearing on Proposed Streamflow Regulations

January 21, 2010

I am Donald Carver, Assistant Superintendent of Water for the City of Waterbury, Bureau of Water. The Waterbury Bureau of Water is a municipal water utility, which serves potable water to approximately 125,000 people in the City of Waterbury and sections of the towns of Thomaston, Watertown, Middlebury, and Wolcott.

The Waterbury Bureau of Water cannot support the proposed Streamflow Regulations as proposed.

The proposed streamflow regulations do not take into account a balanced approach utilizing "good science". Good science must be given unbiased equal consideration – balancing aquatic life **and** human and economic sustainability as well as all the other competing interests. What will happen to a water utilities ability to provide a "safe and adequate water supply" if it is required to make the mandatory releases based on the proposed regulations from a water supply that is already marginal at best?

The proposed streamflow regulations as drafted will not be able to be implemented without significant costs incurred. The City of Waterbury was fortunate that the State of Connecticut funded 100% of the Shepaug Project. Who is going to pay for the multi-million dollar infrastructure improvements needed that most utilities will have to make in order to meet the required releases as drafted? Is the State of Connecticut going to pay and award grants? Is the Department of Environmental Protection going to fund 100% of the projects? Will the Department of Public Utility Control allow fifty percent (50%) rate increases to all the water utilities that will be lined up requesting funding should these proposed streamflow regulations be implemented? Is the State of Connecticut ready to burden its residents with double digit rate increases in this economic climate? These are just a few of the many questions that need to be addressed and answered before any proposed regulation should or could even be considered for adoption.

In summary, the Waterbury Bureau of Water cannot support the proposed streamflow regulations as drafted. There are too many vital questions that remain to be answered. The negative effects of the proposed streamflow regulation as drafted could potentially have far reaching consequences to the residents and water utilities in the State of Connecticut and further erode the States economic viability.